

Also coupled to the bus 100 are a keyboard 130 for entering alpha numeric input, external storage 140 for storing data, a cursor control device 150 for manipulating a multi-mode pointer or cursor, a display 160, such as a CRT or LC monitor, for displaying a three-dimensional visual output, i.e., the document workspace, a network connection 170 and a display controller 190. The external storage 140 may be a fixed or removable magnetic or optical disk drive, such as a CD-ROM. The external storage 140 may itself store container and content objects, which are explained more fully below. The cursor control device 150 is used for controlling cursor or pointer movement on the display 160. This input device typically has two degrees of freedom in two axes, a first axis (x-axis) and a second axis (y-axis), which allows the device to specify any position in a plane. As is described more fully below, in the present invention, a three-dimensional cursor having a third degree of freedom in a z-axis is utilized. The cursor control device 150, such as a mouse or track ball, optionally includes a button or switch associated therewith to which the performance of certain functions can be programmed. In one embodiment, such a switch has a first up position and a second down position, which are used to select and move objects along all three axes within the three-dimensional workspace. Other cursor control devices include track pads, data gloves, head-trackers, pens, and other devices suitable for positioning a cursor on a computer monitor or display. The network connection 170 provides a means for attaching to a network, e.g., a Local Area Network card or modem card with appropriate software.